

TRIBAL NATION GRANT FUND PROGRAM**Minutes of the January 10, 2020
Tribal Nation Grant Fund Program Meeting**

Hearing Room 100
2399 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833
www.tngf.ca.gov

OPEN SESSION**1. Call to Order**

Christina Snider called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

2. Traditional Opening

Chairman Hitchcock led the Panel in a traditional opening prayer.

3. Roll Call

Roll call of Panel members was taken with Chairman Attebery, Chairman Hitchcock, Chairman Miller, Chairman Smith, and Secretary Ramirez – present. The five Panel members present were identified as the voting members and quorum was met. Chairwoman Pinto joined the meeting late and was also identified as a voting member, Chairwoman Bovee joined the meeting late and was not identified as a voting member.

4. Approval of December 13, 2019 TNGF Meeting Minutes

Chairman Attebery made a motion to approve the 12/13/19 meeting minutes, Chairman Hitchcock seconded the motion with Chairman Miller, Chairman Smith and Secretary Ramirez voting yes to approve; by consensus the Panel members approved the 12/13/19 minutes.

5. Old Business

- Recap of December 13, 2019 Meeting

Christina Snider provided a recap of the December 13, 2019 meeting; the last meeting consisted of the Panel reviewing and discussing the applications received for the Equal Distribution grant.

- Update on Grants

Erica Dennis provided an update on the status of the grant awards.

At the December 13th meeting, 56 applications were reviewed and approved by the Panel; 35 approved as is and 21 were approved with follow ups. Erica Dennis has begun reaching out to the 21 tribes that required follow up items. As of today, 36 checks have been released, 10 tribes are in the process of working on their follow up documents, and 11 tribes are in the process of being contacted by Erica Dennis and Christina Snider.

Chairman Hitchcock asked for clarification on the 36 checks that have been “released” - does that mean a request has been put in, or checks have been put in the mail already? Erica Dennis clarified that the Commission received notification that checks have been placed in the mail.

Chairman Smith requested an update on the budget after all disbursements have been made. Erica Dennis responded, after all 56 checks have been released, \$22.4 million will have been disbursed from the account leaving \$22.9 million remaining for the next program.

Public Comment: Jimmy John Thompson requested the status of his tribe’s application. Erica Dennis said she would chat with him after the meeting to provide him information.

6. Consideration of Applications Submitted After the Deadline

Chairman Hitchcock recalls at one of the meetings, it being discussed to do two Equal Distribution grant distributions in this fiscal year. Christina Snider added that the thought process was to release the first Equal Distribution Grant, then do a Regular grant and with any remaining funds, release a second round of Equal Distribution grants.

Chairwoman Pinto suggested that the Panel accept the four applications under the first round and set a deadline for a second round where the other tribes that did not originally apply, can apply.

Christina Snider explained that in order to comply with statute, the Panel would have to extend the original deadline date or set a second deadline.

Chairwoman Pinto made a motion to extend the deadline to January 7, 2020 in order for the four applications to be accepted, Chairman Miller seconded the motion with Chairman Hitchcock, Chairman Smith and Secretary Ramirez voting yes to approve; by consensus, the Panel members approved the Equal Distribution deadline extension to January 7, 2020.

7. Consideration of Equal Distribution Grant Applications:

a) Manchester Band of Pomo Indians of the Manchester Rancheria The Panel approved this application as is and requires no follow up.	Strengthening Infrastructure
b) Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel The Panel approved this application as is and requires no follow up.	Distribution Fund Projects

c) Greenville Rancheria The Panel approved the application with follow up; the Panel would like to see a budget summary and recommends the project be completed in a 1-year timeframe so that the tribe can access future TNGF funding.	Tribal Health Related Economic Development Enterprise
d) Ramona Band of Cahuilla The Panel approved the application with follow up; the Panel recommends the project be completed in a 1-year timeframe so that the tribe can access future TNGF funding.	Grid Connection Project

Chairwoman Pinto made a motion to approve the Manchester Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians application as submitted. Chairman Miller seconded the motion, with Chairman Attebery, Chairman Hitchcock, Chairwoman Smith and Secretary Ramirez voting yes to approve; by consensus, the Panel approved awarding \$400,000 to Manchester Band of Pomo Indians. Chairman Hitchcock added a comment to the approval, "He hopes the positions the tribe are requesting are sustainable in the coming years."

Chairman Hitchcock made a motion to approve the Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel application as submitted. Chairman Smith seconded the motion, with Chairwoman Pinto, Chairman Attebery, Chairman Miller and Secretary Ramirez voting yes to approve; by consensus, the Panel approved awarding \$400,000 to Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel.

Chairman Attebery made a motion to approve the Greenville Rancheria application with follow up – a budget summary and the recommendation the projects be completed in a 1-year timeframe so that the tribe can access future TNGF funding. Chairwoman Pinto seconded the motion, with Chairman Hitchcock, Chairman Miller, Chairman Smith and Secretary Ramirez voting yes to approve; by consensus, the Panel approved awarding \$400,000 to Greenville Rancheria with follow up.

Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the Ramona Band of Cahuilla application with a recommendation - projects be completed in a 1-year timeframe so that the tribe can access future TNGF funding. Chairwoman Pinto seconded the motion, with Chairman Hitchcock, Chairman Miller, Chairman Attebery and Secretary Ramirez voting yes to approve; by consensus, the Panel approved awarding \$400,000 to Ramona Band of Cahuilla with the recommendation.

8. TNGF Grant – Next Steps

Christina Snider provided the Panel with an overview of questions and feedback collected over the last couple of months for the Regular Grant. See January 10 agenda attachments.

Follow up questions for the Panel to consider before the next meeting:

- How will the Panel define sustainability for this grant?
- Should there be a cap on timelines? Will a multiyear project bind this year's money or future years?

- Should there be a cap on funds awarded? Should there be a principle of awarding grants for larger/more impressive projects?
- If a Tribe has secured funds through the Equal Distribution grant for a project, can they apply for the Regular Grant for the same project?
- Should multi-phase projects be submitted by phase or as the whole project?
- Community Development (Infrastructure, etc.) v. Economic Development v. Community/Economic Development – should these be split up or just prioritized differently in rubric?
 - Could just be part of the community impact rubric?
- Demonstration of capacity and/or capacity built in to plan?
- Does the Panel want to earmark funds for emergency response? There are funds available, but certain hurdles to qualify for funds—recommend \$1-1.5M for emergency/natural disaster (how should Panel define?)

Chairman Smith requested a list of the eleven tribes that did not apply for the Equal Distribution grant.

Erica Dennis clarified that after all 60 tribes are awarded funds, there will be \$21,308,000 left in the account for this fiscal year.

Chairman Hitchcock suggested, based on the numbers the Panel talked about at previous meetings, the “competitive” grant stay at \$16,508,000, leaving the balance for the other eleven tribes that have not applied for the Equal Distribution grant, giving them an opportunity to access these funds.

Secretary Ramirez agrees that a second round of Equal Distribution grants should be open to those tribes that did not apply, allowing them the opportunity to access those funds.

Chairman Hitchcock - how is the Panel going to break the remaining funds up? Are we doing 15 - \$1 million grants; maybe a few that are \$3-\$5 million? What is our threshold going to be? How are we going to differentiate infrastructure, housing, economic development? The Panel should be thinking about these things now.

Christina Snider suggested we release a survey to gather feedback from tribes whether or not they plan on applying and if so, how much.

Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, February 28, 2020 from 10:00-3:00 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room

Friday, March 13, 2020 from 9:00-12:00 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room

Christina will work with Bishop and Chairwoman Bovee on setting up Listening Sessions in their areas.

9. February Agenda Topics

No topics discussed

10. Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda

No public comments

ADJOURNMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICES TO THE PUBLIC:

Public comments on agenda items will be taken at the time the specific item is raised.

This open meeting will be live streamed on the Tribal Nation Grant Fund website. Please go to www.tngf.ca.gov under the "Meetings" page, to access the live stream link.

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